In the Claims:

Please amend claims 2-11, 18, 21, 24, 26, and 28 to read as shown below. The changes made to claims 2-11, 18, 21, 24, 26, and 28 are detailed in the attached Appendix.

2. (Amended) A green tire as set forth in claim 21, wherein the reinforcement cords in one row are transversely staggered relative to the reinforcement cords in an adjacent row.

3. (Amended) A green tire as set forth in claim 2, wherein the plurality of rows comprise two parallel rows of reinforcement cords.

4. (Amended) A green tire as set forth in claim 21, wherein the plurality of rows comprise two parallel rows of reinforcement cords.

5. (Amended) A green tire as set forth in claim 21, wherein the elastomer sheet is made of rubber.

6. (Amended) A green tire as set forth in claim 21, wherein the sheet has a thickness of about 0.5 mm to about 2.0 mm.

7. (Amended) A green tire as set forth in claim 6, wherein the sheet has a width of about 150 mm to about 250 mm.

8. (Amended) A green tire as set forth in claim 21, wherein each row comprises between about 50 to about 600 cords.

9. (Amended) A green tire as set forth in claim 8, wherein the cords each have a diameter of about 0.3 mm to about 2.0 mm.

10. (Amended) A green tire as set forth in claim 9, wherein the reinforcement cords in each row are spaced from adjacent reinforcement cords in the same row a distance of about 0.1 mm to about 3.8 mm.

11. (Amended) A method of making the body ply for the green tire of claim 21, comprising the steps of:

introducing the reinforcement cords into a die assembly; and

extruding rubber into a cavity of the die assembly so that rubber is forced around and between the reinforcement cords.

18. (Amended) A method of making the body ply for the green tire of claim 21, comprising the steps of:

replacing an insert in an existing machine used to make steel belts or single layer body ply material with an insert having the passages corresponding to the arrangement of reinforcement cords in the elastomeric sheet;

passing the reinforcement cords through the replacement insert and into a die assembly of the existing machine; and

extruding rubber into a cavity of the die assembly so that rubber is forced around and between the reinforcement cords.

21. (Amended) A green tire incorporating a body ply comprising an elastomeric sheet and a plurality of rows of reinforcement cords embedded therein, the body ply having edges forming an axially extending seam, wherein each of the reinforcement cords has a diameter *d*, wherein adjacent cords in a first of the plurality of rows are spaced a distance $d_{a\text{-}a}$ and wherein adjacent cords in a second of the plurality of rows are spaced a distance $d_{b\text{-}b}$ and wherein these distances are equal and uniform.

24. (Amended) A tire incorporating a body ply comprising an elastomeric sheet and a plurality of rows of reinforcement cords embedded therein, the body ply extending between beads and having lateral end portions turned respectively therearound, wherein each of the reinforcement cords has a diameter *d*, wherein adjacent cords in a first of the plurality of rows are spaced a distance d_{a-a} and wherein adjacent cords in a second of the plurality of rows are spaced a distance d_{b-b} and wherein these distances are equal and uniform.

26. (Amended) A pneumatic tire incorporating a body ply comprising an elastomeric sheet and two parallel rows of reinforcement cords embedded therein;

each row comprising between about 50 to about 600 cords;

each cord having a diameter *d* of about 0.3 mm to about 2.0 mm;

adjacent cords in a first of the plurality of rows being spaced a distance d_{a-a} and wherein adjacent cords in a second of the plurality of rows are spaced a distance d_{b-b} and wherein these distances are equal and uniform and about 0.1 mm to about 3.8 mm.

28. (Amended) A pneumatic tire having a body ply which comprises an elastomer sheet and two parallel rows of reinforcement cords embedded therein;

each row comprising between about 50 to about 600 cords;

each cord having a diameter *d* of about 0.3 mm to about 2.0 mm;

adjacent cords in a first of the plurality of rows being spaced a distance d_{a-a} and wherein adjacent cords in a second of the plurality of rows are spaced a distance d_{b-b} and wherein these distances are equal and uniform and about 0.1 mm to about 3.8 mm;

the reinforcement cords in one row being transversely staggered relative to the reinforcement cords in an adjacent row.